

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 A-01 SSO-00 CCO-00
SS-15 OPR-02 OC-06 CPR-02 USSS-00 SY-05 NSCE-00
IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 ICAE-00 PA-01 PC-01 /093 W
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O R 201640Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3687
INFO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, OVIP (CARTER, LILLIAN), XT, XY, IT
SUBJECT: MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT TO ROME

REF: A. STATE 153816 B. STATE 154995

1. EMBASSY VIEWS MISS LILLIAN'S VISIT AS AN IMPORTANT
OPPORTUNITY BOTH TO EXPRESS AMERICAN POLICY ON QUESTIONS
OF FOOD, AID, AND DEVELOPMENT IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM,
AND TO DEEPEN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITALY. VISIT OF
ADVANCE TEAM IS WELCOMED, AND EMBASSY WILL APPRECIATE CHANCE
TO DISCUSS PROGRAM.

2. FOLLOWING IS OUTLINE OF OPTIMUM PROGRAM FROM EMBASSY
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POINT OF VIEW. NEITHER GOI NOR VATICAN HAVE BEEN INFORMED
OF VISIT.

THURSDAY, JULY 20:
AFTERNOON ARRIVAL.
BRIEFING FOR OFFICIAL PARTY BY AMBASSADOR AND US FAO
REPRESENTATIVE BAKER AT VILLA TAVERNA.

EVENING: DINNER IN HONOR OF MISS LILLIAN BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI.

FRIDAY, JULY 21:

MORNING: INTERVIEW WITH MAJOR NATIONWIDE NEWSPAPER.
REST OR SIGHTSEEING.

NOON: BRIEF CALL ON FAO DG SAOUMA, FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION IN CONFERENCE HALL OF FAO CERES MEDAL BY SAOUMA BEFORE AUDIENCE COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES TO FAO, ITALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS, AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF FAO SECRETARIAT, AND OTHERS INVITED BY FAO. UPON ACCEPTANCE OF THE MEDAL, MISS LILLIAN WOULD DELIVER 20-MINUTE SPEECH ON FOOD, DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS. IF MISS LILLIAN AGREES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SIGNIFICANT OCCASION TO FOCUS DIPLOMATIC AND MEDIA ATTENTION ON THIS TOPIC, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR REMARKS. FOLLOWING SPEECH, RECOMMEND PRESS CONFERENCE.

LUNCH: OFFERED BY DG SAOUMA AT FAO. EMBASSY WOULD URGE DG TO INCLUDE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF SAHELIAN COUNTRIES AND OTHER EXPERTS ON PROBLEMS OF THAT AREA. ANOTHER OPTION WOULD BE TO SCHEDULE POST-LUNCHEON (ABOUT 1430-1530) BRIEFING ON SAHEL PROBLEM.

AFTERNOON: FREE FOR SIGHTSEEING OR REST.

EVENING: DINNER IN HONOR OF MISS LILLIAN OFFERED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GARDNER. APPROXIMATELY 50 GUESTS WOULD INCLUDE DG SAOUMA, OTHERS FROM FOOD ORGANIZATIONS, AND DISTINGUISHED ITALIANS.

SATURDAY, JULY 22:

MORNING: TAPING SESSION FOR NATIONAL TV INTERVIEW. DEPARTURE FOR CASTELGANDOLFO, SUMMER RESIDENCE OF THE POPE. ALTHOUGH POPE DEPARTS ROME IN MID-JULY AND DOES NOT OFTEN RECEIVE VISITORS AT CASTELGANDOLFO, RECOMMEND IN VIEW OF HIGH VATICAN INTEREST IN QUESTIONS ON WHICH MISS LILLIAN WISHES TO FOCUS ATTENTION THAT OFFICE OF PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY BE AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS POPE PAUL VI AND A TOUR OF THE CASTELGANDOLFO PROPERTIES, INCLUDING GARDENS AND PAPAL FARM.

AFTERNOON: FREE FOR SIGHTSEEING OR REST.

EVENING: RECEPTION BY AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GARDNER IN HONOR OF MISS LILLIAN FOR ITALIAN LEADERS, TOP-LEVEL OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND AMERICAN STUDENTS. EVENT COULD PERHAPS INCLUDE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY YOUNG AMERICAN GROUP TOURING ITALY.

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SUNDAY, JULY 23:
FREE TIME, CHURCH, OR SIGHTSEEING.
DEPARTURE.

3. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT IS FSO GEORGE WARD, JR., SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO THE AMBASSADOR.

4. FAO REP BAKER AND CONTROL OFFICER WARD WILL
MEET ADVANCE TEAM ON ARRIVAL TWA 846 AT 1130 ON JUNE 22.
HOTEL RESERVATIONS MADE FOR HARDEN AND COOK AT
EXCELSIOR HOTEL.

5. APPOINTMENT WITH FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL
RALPH PHILLIPS SET FOR 1000, JUNE 23. AMBASSADOR GARDNER
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HOPES TO MEET TEAM AFTERNOON JUNE 22 OR JUNE 23 PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT WITH PHILLIPS.

6. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. GARDNER HOPE THAT MISS LILLIAN WILL BE THEIR GUEST AT VILLA TAVERNA FOR HER STAY IN ROME.

7. AS ROME HOTEL SITUATION WILL BE TIGHT IN JULY, PLEASE FURNISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, HOTEL ROOM REQUIREMENTS FOR VISIT.

8. ONCE DRAFT PROGRAM APPROVED, EMBASSY WILL SUGGEST SEPARATE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE.

9. FOLLOWING INFORMATION OBTAINED SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING OF THE FOREGOING.

INFORMAL SOUNDINGS TAKEN WITH FAO DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL PHILLIPS WHO LATER TALKED TO DG SAOUMA AND GOT BACK TO US BY PHONE, MAKE CLEAR THAT DG'S PREFERENCE IS FOR SMALLER SCENARIOS, EITHER IN HIS OFFICE (MAXIMUM 20 PEOPLE PLUS ITALIAN TV IF DESIRED) OR IN MEDIUM SIZED RECEPTION ROOM SUCH AS POLISH ROOM OF BLDG A (MAXIMUM 80 PEOPLE). PHILLIPS DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT DG WOULD CONSIDER LARGER SCENARIO BUT NOTED THAT HE HAD STAGED SIMILAR SCENARIO FOR JUNE 12 VISIT OF PRESIDENT JAWARA OF GAMBIA WHO WAS REPRESENTING SAHELIAN CONCERNS. APPARENTLY, HE HAS SOME RELUCTANCE IN BROADENING THIS PRECEDENT, ESPECIALLY SHORTLY AFTER JAWARA VISIT. CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, WHILE WE HAD THOUGHT ACCENTING PRE-SAHEL NATURE OF MISS LILLIAN'S STOP WOULD NICELY COMPLEMENT JAWARA VISIT, PHILLIPS MADE CLEAR THAT EMPHASIS ON OTHER THEMES BY MISS LILLIAN WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE, IF PUBLIC CEREMONY OR STATEMENT WERE TO BE CONSIDERED. WE HAVE TOLD PHILLIPS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE BELIEVE THERE NUMEROUS THEMES MISS LILLIAN COULD SPEAK TO AND WE HOPE HE WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER LARGER SCENARIO FURTHER WITH DG BEFORE ADVANCE PARTY ARRIVES. PHILLIPS SAID HE WOULD DO SO BUT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE OUTCOME FOR GRANTED. EMBASSY CONVINCED LARGER SCENARIO MUCH PREFERABLE. GARDNER

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